

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: Dairyland Power Cooperative CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line Project
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:30:13 AM
Attachments: [Carleton College Dairyland Power CapX2020 comments.pdf](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: nbraker@carleton.edu [<mailto:nbraker@carleton.edu>]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2009 12:25 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Cc: mn02ima@mail.house.gov; sen.kevin.dahle@senate.mn; david@davidbly.com
Subject: Dairyland Power Cooperative CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line Project

Hello Ms. Strength:

Attached please find our comments on the Dairyland Power Cooperative CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse Transmission Line Project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Stephanie.strength@usda.gov

June 26, 2009

Re: Comments on the Dairyland Power Cooperative CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse
Transmission Line Project

Dear Ms. Strength:

I am writing to comment on the above referenced Transmission Line Project. Carleton College has a vested interest in this project due to our ownership of an important tallgrass prairie remnant located in Goodhue County, within ¼ mile of one of the proposed routes.

McKnight Prairie was purchased by the College in 1968 in order to provide a location for faculty and students to study and conduct research on native prairie and the plants and animals found there. Tallgrass prairie, or prairie of any sort, is a rare commodity throughout its range. In Minnesota, less than one-half of one percent of the original prairie remains. McKnight Prairie has been identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as one of the highest quality remnant prairies left in Goodhue County.

B-006-001

We strongly favor the eastern of the two proposed routes; that is the one that roughly parallels State Highway 52 as it passes through Goodhue County. This route follows an already developed transportation and utility corridor thereby limiting impact on the rural landscape. In addition to less impact on the agricultural community, this route will have fewer effects on native wildlife, including declining plants, animals and native plant communities.

B-006-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

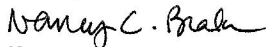
The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

The western of the two routes, the one we do not favor, would directly impact wildlife habitat and the species that use that habitat. In particular, a population concentration the Loggerhead Shrike, a Minnesota threatened species, is found in the area, nesting and foraging for food in the brushy fields and remnant prairies patches that are found throughout this landscape. The shrikes, which frequent McKnight Prairie, nest and forage in the area that would be disrupted by the power line construction and maintenance.

In summary, we strongly encourage you to select the eastern of the two routes, adjacent to Highway 52. This route provides for more efficient land use, and has a limited effect on important natural resources.

Thank you for your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Nancy C. Braker

Cc: Congressman John Kline
Minnesota State Senator Kevin Dahl
Minnesota Representative David Bly